

Publication of Woodward's CIA book is a covert operation

The New York Times
The Washington Times
The Wall Street Journal
The Christian Science Monitor
New York Daily News
USA Today

The Chicago Tribune

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"IF WE see the light at the end of the tunnel, it's the light of an incoming train," wrote the great poet Robert Lowell before his death in 1977.

ONCE UPON a time, Bob Woodward had a book coming out, set for excerpting in the *Washington Post* and in *Newsweek*, and ready to make post-Watergate history. (This was "The Final Days," co-written with Carl Bernstein.) I was lucky enough to scoop the contents of that book and made worldwide headlines in advance. This made both the *Post* and *Newsweek* very unhappy.

But everybody can relax this time. I haven't been able to find out much beyond the bare bones about Woodward's blockbuster which concerns Bill Casey and the CIA. In fact, Simon & Schuster won't even confirm that the title is "Veil." The book will be a cover story in *Newsweek* the end of this month. Woodward is to be on "60 Minutes" about the same time. The publisher printed the manuscript under close surveillance and on machines not used by other companies. It is doubtful if more than five people know what's coming. The Book-of-the-Month Club has it and S&S made a 500,000 first press run. Agent Irving Lazar says: "I've never in my life received as much interest

this, its great disaster. The bomb squad is always so busy defusing.

A PART of Michael Jackson will remain in the Land of the Rising Sun after he ends his 13 sold-out concerts. Ah, so! A wax likeness of the "Bad" star, wearing a red uniform, is to remain on display in the lobby of the busy Tokyo Tower. The figure was made by the Madame Tousseaud experts.

A HAPPY SIGHT last Wednesday night in Patsy's on New York's west side was the party of six that included Gilda Radner and Gene Wilder with some of his relatives. As you know, Gilda was very ill last year, but now she seems to be fine. At first she sat across the table from her husband, doing impersonations, but she ended up sitting in his lap.

WATCHING the ABC hit "20/20" beginning with its first Friday audiences of baby sitters, brought to mind the Dolly Parton show. Its coming on Sunday shifted the ABC Movie to "20/20's" excellent Thursday spot. So much now rides on Dolly's success! Lots of hard work is going on, but there's a leak that the Southern sensibility-type writers who are on Dolly's wavelength have been quietly canned for the most part and the producers are bringing in wise-guy Eastern-type

writers of TV schtick. Dolly may not even be aware of this, but is this what she wants? Is it what her middle- and all-American audience wants?

MY MOTHER was to be 95 on Nov. 30. My brothers, James and Bobby, and I were planning a big bash in Austin, Texas. But the heroine of the only book I ever managed to put together, "The Mother Book," died of a massive stroke Friday. She'd just had her hair done and was in her own home in her pet spot on her favorite sofa with a deck of cards, ready for a game of solitaire, anticipating seeing "As The World Turns" on TV.

She always had a horror of being in an accident with torn underwear, or dying in pain, or being a burden, or worse — with her hair in a mess. So, as in life, I suppose in death we couldn't have been luckier. We certainly had the perfect mother. Sarah Elizabeth McCall Smith is being laid to rest next to the only man she ever loved, Sloan Smith, in Gonzales, Texas. Cleveland Amory once told the 4 S's, the attributes of a lady. "Simplicity, sympathy, sincerity and serenity." My mother completely. I wrote her almost every day of my adult life, so this is my last note to her.

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or as many calls as for this book, both for TV and the movies!" (Oh golly — who will play Bill Casey? Ed Begley is dead; maybe Ed Asner.)

I guess Hollywood, which always forgets, has forgiven Woodward after all for writing a truthful but painful book about the death of John Belushi!

THIS WEEK, CBS will get around to telling that the vivacious Mariette Hartley is to depart "The Morning Program" as of Jan. 2. I don't know if the network will tell anything else about the fate of